

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7391

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE OAS

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR BUENOS AIRES FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

SUMMARY: IN A TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW WITH EL NACIONAL, ON JANUARY 22 VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS, JOSE MARIA MACHIN, REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE CURRENT OAS MEETING IN WASHINGTON WAS ONE OF PESSIMISM WITH RESPECT TO THE CONCEPT OF THE "NEW DIALOGUE", AND HE REAFFIRMED THAT VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR WILL NOT ATTEND THE BUENOS AIRES FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. MACHIN CLAIMED THA THE U.S. HAD NOT PROMISED TO TAKE ANY CONCRETE STEPS TO MODIFY THE NEW TRADE LAW. END SUMMARY.

1. EL NACIONAL ON JANUARY 23 HEADLINED AN INTERVIEW THE DAY BEFORE WITH VENEZUELAN OAS AMBASSADOR MACHIN ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CURRENT OAS SESSION IN WASHINGTON. MACHIN,S PRINCIPAL POINTS REPORTEDLY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE VENEZUELAN POSITION IS SO REASONABLE AND JUST THAT EVEN THE U.S. HAS RECOGNIZED PUBLICLY THE REALITY OF THE VENEZUELAN STANCE AND HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO ADVANCE A SINGLE  
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ARGUMENT IN REBUTTAL.

(B) THE LATIN AMERICAN OAS COUNTRIES SHARE THE VIEWS OF VENEZUELA; IT IS NOT ONLY VENEZUELA, BUT ALL THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH SHOULD BE PROUD OF HAVING ACTED AS A UNITED FRONT AGAINST A "LEGAL INSTRUMENT"(I.E., THE TRADE ACT) WHICH HARMS THEM IN THEIR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS."

(C) THE "DECLARATION " WHICH THE CURRENT OAS MEETING WILL PRODUCE WILL SYNTHESIZE THE LATIN AMERICAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE "COERCIVE AND DISCRIMINATORY CHARACTER" OF THE TRADE LAW.

(D) MACHIN THOUGH THAT THERE WOULD BE AN OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE TRADE LAW, CONVOKED UNDER THE TITLE "U.S. FOREIGN TRADE LAW IN THE LIGHT OF LATIN AMERICA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."

(E) UP TO THIS MOMENT, THE U.S. HAS NOT MADE ANY CONCRETE DECLARATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD SEND TO CONGRESS A TEXT OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE LAW. ACCORDING TO MACHIN, THE ONLY OFFICIAL U.S. STATEMENT HAS BEEN THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE "TO SEE THAT CERTAIN PORTIONS (OF THE LAW), ARE NOT APPLIED," AND AT NOT IME HAS THE U.S. SAID THAT IT WOULD SEEK A REVISION OF THE LAW.

(F) THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN THE CURRENT OAS MEETING NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY RESOLUTION RESPECTING IT. IT IS A MEETING WHICH IS BEING PREPARED OUTSIDE THE OAS, IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION BY SECRETARY KISSINGER.

(G) IT IS EVIDENT THAT THERE IS A PESSIMISTIC ATMOSPHERE IN WASHINGTON AND THAT "THE NEW DIALOGUE" UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD NOT BE OPPORTUNE. SOME COUNTRIES BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD GO TO BUENOS AIRES IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE TRADE LAW. HOWEVER, UNDER THE PRESENT CONDITIONS VENEZUELA SHOULD NOT GO.

(H) IN ANY CASE, EACH COUNTRY MUST MAKE ITS OWN SOVEREIGN DECISIONS. VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR HAVE STATED AND RATIFIED THEIR POSITION; THEY WILL NOT GO TO BUENOS UNCLASSIFIED

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AIRES.

2. ALL VENEZUELAN PAPERS THIS MORNING CARRIED FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES QUOTING MACHIN AS SAYING THAT "VENEZUELA WILL NOT KNEEL DOWN BEFORE KISSINGER AT BUENOS AIRES".  
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